



NEWS RELEASE

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STATE, LOCAL EMERGENCY OFFICIALS MEMORIALIZE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11th

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – State and local emergency officials marked the 7th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks and said that California's emphasis on targeting federal homeland security funds to local agencies has bolstered the state's ability to respond to natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

Since 9/11, the State of California has approved more than \$2 billion for use by state and local agencies throughout California and more than \$79.7 million within the greater Sacramento area.

“Because all emergencies start as local events, the State of California has made it a high priority to help cities, counties and special districts obtain as many of the resources they need to respond when danger strikes,” said Henry Renteria, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Renteria's remarks came as emergency response officials from his office, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS) and Sacramento area law enforcement and fire agencies gathered at Cal Expo to memorialize the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

“Working with local and federal agencies to reduce California's vulnerability to terrorist attacks and natural disasters, as well as our ability to respond effectively, is a priority of Governor Schwarzenegger and his administration,” said Matthew Bettenhausen, Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. “That's why we've emphasized getting the biggest bang for our buck in the allocation of federal homeland security funds.”

Renteria and Bettenhausen cited the recent use of homeland security funds to upgrade California's swift water rescue capabilities as an example of how OHS, OES and entities such as the California Fire and Rescue Training Authority have worked together to maximize the effectiveness of available resources.

Working together, the two state agencies and the Sacramento-based joint powers authority used more than \$1.8 million in homeland security funds to increase the number of accredited swift water rescue teams in California from 10 to 13 by equipping new teams based with the Long Beach, Marin County and Stockton fire departments and to upgrade vehicles and equipment belonging to the existing 10 teams.

"We have expanded our ability to support emergency operations like hurricanes Gustav, and now Ike, by having additional teams available throughout the state," said Renteria.

In response to Hurricane Ike, eight California-based swift water rescue teams, including those based with the Sacramento City and Sacramento Metropolitan fire departments were deployed to Louisiana. Also deployed were teams from the Los Angeles City and County fire departments, the Long Beach Fire Department, Marin County Fire Department, the Stockton Fire Department and the Ventura County Fire Department.

California has deployed a total of 364 personnel in response to Hurricane Ike, including three Urban Search and Rescue Teams and eight Swift Water Rescue Teams. These personnel include Governor's Office of Emergency Services Coordinators and Fire Branch Chiefs, state and local firefighters, California National Guard personnel, search and rescue experts, swift water rescue experts and various specialized support personnel. The California National Guard has also activated two HH-60 Pavehawk Helicopters and two MC130 fixed wing aircraft to support Air National Guard rescue missions in Texas.

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